

Fact Sheet



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 3, 2013

CONTACT: Roy Stearns
(916) 654-7538

Partners for Malibu Lagoon Strongly Support Restoration Outcome

The restoration of Malibu Lagoon is one of the most ecologically significant wetlands restoration projects ever undertaken by California State Parks. In this undertaking, our key partners from the Malibu Lagoon Task Force and others, were involved every step of the way in lending their local knowledge, scientific expertise and biological skills for how to proceed with a restoration that would heal the once sick Malibu Lagoon.

As the lagoon project comes to a close and the natural processes take over to revitalize this important coastal resource, key members of the Task Force and other supporters, many of whom are expert in the area of natural resource functions, have provided the following comments in support of the outcome of the restoration:

California State Senator

"It's wonderful to see this beautiful and iconic treasure brought back to life. From being a Caltrans dumping ground in the 1950s, the Malibu Lagoon is once again a clean and healthy environment for all to enjoy, whether by foot, fin or flight."

State Senator Fran Pavley
Democrat – Agoura Hills

Natural Resources Agency – State of California

"The Malibu Lagoon Restoration Project is a model example of how sound science can be used to restore, protect and manage California's natural resources. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of all the partners involved, we can look forward to a healthier Malibu Lagoon for current and future generations."

John Laird
Secretary for Natural Resources
State of California

California State Coastal Conservancy

"Malibu Lagoon is a living place for birds, fish, and people, and we are proud to help restore it. As time passes and the native plants grow in, we are confident that the community will embrace the restored lagoon and treasure it as a vital natural sanctuary in the heart of Malibu."

Sam Schuchat
Executive Officer
State Coastal Conservancy

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

"The restoration of Malibu Lagoon marks a turning point in bringing back our coastal wetlands. Undoing decades of problems and returning the lagoon to where it can clean itself, through natural, unimpeded flows of river and tide, is a success story. The ability to re-establish natural processes that support cleaner water and healthier wildlife will be critical to sustaining a healthy coastal environment for people and wildlife, for many generations to come. Malibu Lagoon is better and healthier than it has been for a very long time and we look forward to many years of celebrating nature here at the lagoon."

Dr. Shelley Luce
Director
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains

"It is a truly rare opportunity and privilege to be part of reversing the trend that has led to the loss of 90% of our tidal wetlands on the California coast. We are proud to have played a role in moving the needle back in the other direction, increasing the habitat available to those specialist species of flora and fauna that need the specific conditions that this lagoon once again provides. We are grateful to the community members and organizations that made this restoration possible through their efforts over more than two decades. This project removed over 3 feet of dumped material in order to reach the historic elevations, dramatically expanding the area of tidally exposed wetlands, and it is gratifying to see the waters return. We are also grateful to the project funders for their imagination and creativity in providing for a unique visitor experience that creates not only protected habitat areas, but also for developing areas of more intimate visitor interaction—a unique learning landscape that will add many new conservationists to the rolls over the decades to come."

Clark Stevens
Architect / Executive Officer
Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains

Los Angeles Waterkeeper

"LA Waterkeeper is proud to be a partner in the Malibu Lagoon Restoration Project. While many of southern California's wetlands have been severely degraded or eliminated, Malibu Lagoon is a new ray

of hope for ecological integrity and species viability in one of our most precious habitat types. We commend the hard work and perseverance of our project partners and look forward to experiencing the future growth and prosperity of this very special place.”

Liz Crosson
Executive Director
Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Heal the Bay – Santa Monica, California

“Heal the Bay is pleased that the groundwork for a successful restoration of the Malibu Lagoon area has been completed. The western portion of the Lagoon had been clogged with sediment for decades, overgrown with algae, and suffered from severely low dissolved oxygen. Over the past year, California State Parks and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission have worked tirelessly to remove the excess sediment and recontour the western portion of the Lagoon to restore flow to the area.

“Although the site may look somewhat barren to casual passers-by with new plants just now taking hold, the aquatic habitat is much improved. Early reports show that water quality has greatly improved, and species that haven’t been seen for decades have returned to the lagoon. The lagoon marks critical habitat for the federally endangered tidewater goby and southern steelhead trout, as well as a diversity of birds.

“Heal the Bay looks forward to a revitalized Malibu Lagoon as native plants take root and grow, wildlife thrives, and people are able to enjoy this Los Angeles-area natural gem. With the majority of wetland habitat in urban Southern California now lost or degraded, this project serves as an example that public agencies can work together to protect our special places.”

Sarah Abramson Sikich
Coastal Resources Director
Heal the Bay

California State Parks

“The long journey we have just completed with our dedicated partners is only the beginning for Malibu Lagoon. We have already seen the re-emergence of the sandy bottom, increased oxygen levels, colonization by invertebrates and young ocean-going fish, foraging birds, and growth of the new native plant communities. We now return this site to its natural inhabitants and eagerly await its further evolution into a sustainable, productive and diverse ecosystem.”

Suzanne Goode
Senior Environmental Scientist
California State Parks

###